



Dear Parents/Carers,

Cheshire East Catering have informed us that they are increasing the cost to us for providing school meals. We have therefore had to increase the price we charge you for a school meal.

School meals will be increasing to **£2.65 from 1st January 2024.**

We have discussed this as a governing board and have done our very best to keep the increase to our families to a minimum. The increase in cost is due to the substantial increases in food and labour costs over the last 12 months, with further increase reviews by Cheshire East Catering expected after April 2024.

Cheshire East Catering are constantly developing new menus and always looking for alternatives to help absorb these costs so that they can keep prices to a minimum., whilst continuing to use where possible local, good quality ingredients.

### **Free school meals**

We understand that this letter arrives when some families are already struggling with the cost of living.

If any parent/carer would like to check whether they are eligible, and apply to claim for their child to receive Free School Meals, they can do so online via the Cheshire East website at: [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/fsm](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/fsm)

or you may also make a telephone application by calling **0300 123 5012.**

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you think you may be entitled to receive Free School Meals, we do strongly urge you to make a claim even if your child is in key stage 1, as the school can claim funding additional (pupil premium), that may be used to support your child in school.

A reminder if your child is in Reception, Year1 or Year 2 they will automatically receive Universal Free School Meals (UFMS).

Many thanks,

Miss Procter  
Interim Head

Miss Humphries  
Chair of governors